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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Following consultations with the members of the Security Council, the President of the Council made the following statement, on behalf of the Council, on 30 November 1992, in connection with the item entitled "An agenda for peace: preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping":

"The members of the Security Council had continued the examination of the Secretary-General's report entitled "An Agenda for Peace" (S/24111).

"The members of the Security Council welcome and support the proposals in paragraph 25 of "An Agenda for Peace" on fact-finding. They are of the view that an increased resort to fact-finding as a tool of preventive diplomacy, in accordance with the Charter and General Assembly Declaration on Fact-Finding (resolution 46/59), particularly its guidelines, can result in the best possible understanding of the objective facts of a situation which will enable the Secretary-General to meet his responsibilities under Article 99 of the Charter and facilitate Security Council deliberations. They agree that various forms of fact-finding can be employed according to the requirements of a situation, and that a request by a State for the dispatch of a fact-finding mission to its territory should be considered without undue delay. They encourage all Member States in a position to do so to provide the Secretary-General with the detailed information needed on issues of concern, so as to facilitate effective preventive diplomacy.

"The members of the Security Council, being aware of the increased responsibilities of the United Nations in the area of preventive diplomacy, invite the Secretary-General to consider the appropriate measures necessary to strengthen the capacity of the Secretariat for information gathering and in-depth analysis. They also invite the Member States and the Secretary-General to consider the secondment of experts to help in this regard. They urge the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to ensure the availability at short notice of eminent persons who might share, with senior officials of the Secretariat, the burden of fact-finding missions. They note the positive role of regional

organizations and arrangements in fact-finding within their areas of competence and welcome its intensification and close coordination with fact-finding efforts by the United Nations.

"Bearing in mind the Declaration on Fact-Finding and the Secretary-General's recommendations in 'An Agenda for Peace', the members of the Security Council for their part will facilitate and encourage every appropriate use of fact-finding missions on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with the Purposes and Principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

"In this context, the members of the Security Council note and endorse the Secretary-General's view that in some cases a fact-finding mission can help defuse a dispute or situation, indicating to those concerned that the United Nations and in particular the Security Council is actively seized of the matter as a present or potential threat to international peace and security. Such action in the early stages of a potential dispute can be particularly effective. They welcome the Secretary-General's readiness to make full use of his powers under Article 99 of the Charter to draw the attention of the Security Council to any matter which in his opinion may threaten international peace and security. They note with satisfaction the recent greater use of fact-finding missions, as exemplified by the missions to Moldova, Nagorny-Karabakh, Georgia, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

"The members of the Security Council intend to continue their work on the Secretary-General's report as indicated in the President's statement of 29 October 1992 (S/24728)."

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